

Africa warns against exclusion of PLO

AFRICA (R) — Twenty African political parties appealed to the United Nations Friday to ensure the full involvement of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any Middle East peace talks. "The exclusion of the PLO cannot only bring more violence but will also bring no lasting peace in the region," they said in a resolution marking the end of a three-day conference in Nairobi. The meeting, chaired by Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, said the 20 African Socialist and Democratic parties backed the PLO under the leadership of Yasir Arafat and the Palestinians' right to choose their representatives to any peace talks. "We appeal to the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to ensure that every effort is made ... to achieve lasting peace," the parties said. Egypt was represented by its deputy prime minister for foreign affairs, Sayed Ghazi. Other participants came from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Libya, South Africa, Cameroun, Botswana, Guinea-Bissau, Cape Verde, Angola, Mozambique, Tanzania, Mauritius, Senegal, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Burundi, Tunisia and Namibia.

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Iraq rejects U.N. draft resolution

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Friday rejected a draft United Nations resolution which would let it sell a limited amount of oil to buy food and medical supplies. "The draft resolution does not provide the financial resources, even at a minimal level, to meet the needs of our people in terms of food, medicine and important humanitarian equipment," the Iraqi News Agency quoted Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi as saying. Dr. Hammadi said it would deny Iraq sovereignty over its natural resources and bring them under the control of other countries. The draft would allow the sale of up to \$1.6 billion worth of embargoed Iraqi oil over six months. A Security Council source said over a billion dollars would be available for food. The rest would be used to pay war reparations, cover the cost of destroying Iraq's mass destruction weapons, pay half the expenses of a U.N. commission demarcating the Iraq-Kuwait border and reimburse the United Nations for overseeing the return of Kuwaiti property (see page 2). The Baghdad government would not control a penny of the money, which oil purchasers would deposit directly into a U.N. escrow account. Dr. Hammadi said the "colonialist powers" were not concerned with the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Arab states to coordinate positions

TUNIS (R) — Arab states will meet to coordinate their positions before any Middle East peace conference. Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid said Friday. Foreign ministers will discuss the issue at their next regular meeting in Cairo in September, he said on arrival in Tunisia for a three-day visit at the start of a North African tour. Abdul Meguid said a special summit could not be excluded. If member states agreed, he said, Arab League participation in a peace conference would be "very positive." The Arab League chief said he would meet President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in Tunis. He said his North African tour was designed to restore Arab solidarity shaken by the Gulf crisis.

Iran denies role in Bakhtiar killing

PARIS (R) — Iran Friday denied responsibility for the killing of former Iranian Prime Minister Shapour Bakhtiar and an aide, and said groups opposed to Tehran's improved ties with the West could be to blame. "The Iranian embassy in Paris... strongly refutes accusations that the Islamic Republic of Iran was implicated in the murder of the former Iranian regime's prime minister," the embassy said in a statement. The two were found knifed to death in Mr. Bakhtiar's closely-guarded home on the outskirts of Paris Thursday (see page 2).

Boy aged two killed in SLA barrage

BEIRUT (R) — A two-year-old boy was killed when pro-Israeli artillerymen shelled villages in South Lebanon to avenge the killing of a comrade in a guerrilla ambush, police said Friday. Police said eight other civilians were wounded in the shelling which targeted six villages north of Israel's self-designated "security zone" Thursday afternoon. The South Lebanon Army (SLA) opened up on the Nabatiyah region after one of its fighters was killed and three were wounded in an ambush near Marjayoun, where the Israeli-backed militia is headquartered. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack. It said in a statement released in Beirut: "Islamic resistance fighters ambushed a joint Israeli-SLA patrol and attacked it with rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns, killing and wounding several enemy elements." There was no independent confirmation that Israeli soldiers were involved.

Higher friendly fire Gulf casualties

WASHINGTON (R) — Nearly twice as many U.S. soldiers were accidentally killed by so-called friendly fire from U.S. forces in the Gulf war as previously thought, two television networks reported Thursday. Both NBC and CBS said a U.S. army investigation had found that 20 of the 148 American soldiers who died in the war were killed by their own side rather than 11 previously reported. The investigation found that about 60 of the 458 U.S. soldiers wounded in the war were victims of American weapons, four times the 15 previously reported. The Defense Department said the army planned to release the report next Tuesday but neither agency would confirm the new casualty figures.

Thornburgh resigns

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Dick Thornburgh submitted his resignation Friday so he could begin a widely expected Senate trial for the unexpired term of the late John Heinz of Pennsylvania, administration sources said. Mr. Thornburgh, whose resignation will not be effective until next week, is the front-runner to win the special Senate election in Pennsylvania, where he served two terms as governor. The attorney general, 69, submitted the resignation letter to President George Bush, said his source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

New abduction seen to delay hostage deal

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's influential Shiite Muslim cleric and the interior minister Friday both condemned the kidnapping of a French aid worker, whose abduction could delay the release of other hostages.

Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadilah used his Friday sermon to call on the kidnappers of Jerome Leyraud to free him "because we want this file closed and we want all those kidnapped released."

A caller claiming responsibility for the kidnapping Thursday said the 26-year-old would be executed if any more Western hostages were released.

The kidnapping came eight hours after British television journalist John McCarthy was freed by Islamic Jihad after more than five years as a hostage.

At sundown Friday, the Syrians set up scores of checkpoints on highway intersections throughout Beirut and its environs. They frisked motorists and checked car trunks apparently to prevent smuggling the kidnapped Frenchman out of the capital. Police urged citizens to report anything suspicious.

Although the Syrian command in charge of Beirut's security made no official comment on Mr. Leyraud's abduction, the Syrians are bound to feel that their previous pledges to support President Elias Hrawi's quest for peace in Beirut were hollow.

At the United Nations, Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar called the latest abduction "most unhelpful and counterproductive," but said he still hoped another hostage would be set free. He had previously added it could be an American.

"I am still hopeful," he told reporters. "I have been this morning in contact with my people in Beirut and they are still hopeful."

Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters he was leaving for London Saturday and would meet with Mr. McCarthy a day later.

Mr. McCarthy arrived home in Britain Thursday night and spent Friday with family and friends at a British air base. He told reporters in Syria after he was released that he carried a letter for Mr. Perez de Cuellar suggesting the remaining

Western hostages be freed in exchange for hundreds of Shiite detainees held by Israel and an Israeli-allied militia.

The White House said Friday it was losing optimism about the chances for release of an American hostage in Lebanon and said anew, "We do not make deals with hostage-takers."

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said President Bush had received no new information from the Middle East overnight about a possible release.

Western diplomats in Damascus said they expected no imminent release of a second Western hostage in Lebanon following Thursday's freeing of Mr. McCarthy.

"There has been no sign here so far of the arrangements which usually preceded the release of previous hostages," one diplomat told Reuters.

He had characterized Mr. McCarthy's release as a possible start to a process that would bring freedom to all captives in the Middle East. Asked if he was being realistic in hoping for a second hostage release given the death threats against Mr. Leyraud,

"They have their logic and I have mine. My logic is that it would be extremely useful if they released the second hostage because that would help me enormously in my efforts. I am interested in the release of all detainees including those who are in Israel and those who are in Lebanon," he added.

Sheikh Faizullah, the reputed mentor of Hizbullah, said in his Friday sermon in south Beirut: "Gone is the era that had produced positive results out of hostage-taking."

Israel came under increasing pressure to free some prisoners. The most prominent is Sheikh Obeid, a cleric kidnapped by Israel in July 1989. Israel has said it wants to exchange its prisoners for seven missing Israeli servicemen, or their remains.

The Beirut caller said he was from the Organisation for the Defence of Prisoners' Rights, which in a call Wednesday had said it wanted Shiite Muslims held by Israel to be released before any more Western hostages were freed.

The call came after three grenades exploded outside a U.N. office, causing no damage. The group had never been heard of before.

It did not use any of the trademark

Intifada enters 45th month

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories stayed indoors Friday in a general strike marking 44 months of their revolt against Israeli occupation.

Businesses closed and transport stopped in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in response to calls by nationalist and Muslim fundamentalist leaders to commemorate the start of the revolt on Dec. 9, 1987.

Israeli Radio said the army was considering replacing regular and reserve troops in the occupied territories with paramilitary border police units it believed were better trained and equipped to fight street protests.

Palestinians say the border police already serving in the occupied territories are notorious for their brutality.

In Nuseirat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, an Arab suspected of working for the Israeli secret service was found dead hours after being kidnapped by masked men, residents said.

They named him as Hani Jaabar but gave no more details.

Military sources said the army destroyed one house and partially demolished a second one in the Gaza Strip town of Rafah to punish their owners who were arrested in June on charges of possessing weapons and killing Arabs accused of being Israeli informers.

Palestinians said the two men, Shaban Hunaif, 20, and Adel Jaabari, 26, were members of the Black Panther group.

Arab activists hurled a fire-bomb towards an Israeli bus in the West Bank city of Hebron but missed it, residents said. They said the army clamped a curfew on the area.

Israeli sources said later any replacement of regular and reserve troops by border police was a long way off, citing a shortage of money and manpower.

Talabani: Jordan an example for democratisation of Iraq

Kurdish leader to discuss Turkish attacks

AMMAN (T.T.) — Kurdish leader Jalal Al Talabani left Amman for Turkey Friday after a brief visit to Jordan during which he was received by His Majesty King Hussein.

Mr. Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), said he discussed with King Hussein the situation in Iraq in particular and in the region in general as well as the ongoing negotiations between the Iraqi government and a Kurdish delegation representing Kurdish parties in Iraq.

In an interview with Jordan News Agency, Petra, before his departure, Mr. Talabani said he also discussed with King Hussein the "historic relations between the two brothers, Arab and Kurdish nations and ways of enhancing these relations and safeguarding Iraqi national unity."

Mr. Talabani's talks with Turkish officials are expected to centre on military attacks on Kurdish rebels' hideouts in northern Iraq.

"Mr. Talabani is going to Turkey to hold talks with officials there on military incursions into northern Iraq and attacks against Kurdish guerrilla bases there," an official accompanying Mr. Talabani told the Associated Press in exchange for anonymity.

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Bakhtiar knifed to death; blame placed at Tehran feet

PARIS (Agencies) — The shah of Iran's last prime minister has been found stabbed to death at his home outside Paris, and Iranian exiles claimed the slaying was the work of a hit squad from Tehran.

Shahpour Bakhtiar, 76, and his top aide, Pouroush Katabeh, were discovered by Mr. Bakhtiar's son at their well-guarded home in Suresnes, west of Paris. They were killed sometime Wednesday night or Thursday morning, police said.

An anonymous caller to an international news agency said Thursday evening his group had carried out the killing and further similar action was planned.

"That's Bakhtiar done for. We are now in Brussels," said the caller, speaking in French and Arabic. There was no way of verifying whether the call was genuine or a hoax.

It was unclear how an assailant could have entered the residence, which is guarded around the clock by four policemen. There were no signs of forced entry or a struggle.

Police said they were searching for three Iranians who visited Bakhtiar Tuesday afternoon. Papers checked by guards showed they lived in France, police said.

Iranian exiles immediately claimed the killings were carried out by Iran in retaliation for Mr. Bakhtiar's staunch criticism of the radical regime that came to power — led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini — after the 1979 revolution.

Mr. Bakhtiar's murder "was ordered by the mullahs" of Iran, said former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr.

"Three or four days ago I received a list of oppositionists that the regime had decided to suppress ... and among them was Shahpour Bakhtiar," said Mr. Bani-Sadr, who also lives in exile near Paris. "I received information saying that this time it was very serious, and that the mullahs in power had decided to suppress me (as well)."

"There is no doubt that this was committed by a death squad from the Khomeini regime," said Afshin Alavi, international secretary of the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, an Iranian exile group.

An attempt was made on Bakhtiar's life 11 years ago, when armed men posing as journalists entered his house and tried to shoot their way to the premier. They failed, but a policeman and a neighbour were killed and three policemen were wounded.

Ans Naccache, a Lebanese national and convicted leader of a pro-Iranian squad, was convicted of leading the five-member hit squad. He was released from prison in 1989 in exchange for three French hostages released from Lebanon.

It was not known if Mr. Bakhtiar had received death threats recently, but neighbours said the police guard around his house had been increased this week.

In Tehran, official radio made a simple announcement of Mr.

Bakhtiar's death, saying he had been killed in Paris.

The French foreign ministry condemned the killing and said it expected an investigation would "shed all light" on the attack. The interior ministry ordered tight controls at all border points.

Prime Minister Edith Cresson called the murder a "cowardly attack."

Apparently seeking to shift blame from Iran, Tehran's U.N. ambassador, Kamal Kharazi, said in New York that he saw a connection between the assassination and the release of British hostage John McCarthy in Beirut.

"I believe it's a suspicious issue that these two phenomena are coinciding, and I don't know who has done (the assassination) and what is behind it," Mr. Kharazi told the U.S. Cable News Network.

A Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who returned from holiday to pay tribute to Mr. Bakhtiar at a Paris mortuary, said Thursday France hoped to be able to bring the killers to justice.

Asked whether the murder would affect relations between France and Iran, Mr. Dumas told reporters: "When we have all the information, we will be able to draw the necessary conclusions."

Relations between France and Iran have improved considerably in the past year and President Francois Mitterrand is due to visit Tehran in the Autumn.

Former Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said the visit would be out of the question if a link with the Iranian government were proved.



Shahpour Bakhtiar

Iraq could cooperate if oil sale extended

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq might accept a U.N. proposal to allow it to sell limited amounts of oil if the sales were allowed over a longer term and Iraq had more control over the revenue earned by them, Iraq's ambassador said Thursday.

Abdul Amir Al Anbari said that several Third World members of the Security Council had agreed with his proposal that the proposed oil sale resolution be amended.

The United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union Wednesday agreed on a draft resolution permitting \$1.6 billion in tightly controlled oil sales by Iraq in three installments over six months.

The entire 15-member council is expected to discuss the resolution early next week.

The resolution could be improved by extending the sale from six months to one year. Mr. Al Anbari told reporters. He said Iraq should be given more authority over the oil sales and the imports of basic necessities.

Under the current resolution, the U.N. Security Council would set up an escrow account to take in the oil revenue and portion out payments for food, medicine and other needs for Iraq, as well as to compensate victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

The oil sales also would finance U.N. military observers and the destruction of Iraqi weapons.

Mr. Al Anbari repeated that Iraq would not sell oil under such a restrictive programme.

Thirty per cent of the oil revenue would be set aside to compensate victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war. The revenue would also help finance U.N. ceasefire monitoring activities, including non-conventional weapons teams and military observers along the Iraq-Kuwait border.

Under the proposal, the Iraqi government would not be able to determine how the money would be spent.

The United Nations also would monitor distribution of the supplies.

Mr. Al Anbari said the resolution should be amended to give Iraq more control in the use of the funds. He said Baghdad would agree to turn over documents about the oil sales and purchases of humanitarian supplies.

The non-aligned nations in the Security Council are discussing the resolution among themselves and could recommend amendments to ease restrictions on Iraq. Any of the five permanent members could veto such amendments.

The non-aligned council members include India, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Ecuador, Romania, Yemen, Zair and Zimbabwe.

The oil sale would be a one-time exception to the U.N. economic sanctions imposed after Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Western diplomats said.

Canadian claim

Canadians will slap Iraq with a claim for about \$100 million in compensation for suffering and damage inflicted in Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf crisis, a government official said Thursday.

The size of the claim may rise, the official said, as Canadians continue to learn the extent of the damage.

"We're preparing the claim so when a fund is set up for reparations Canadians can be compensated," External Affairs spokesman Rodney Moore said in an interview.

Almost 200 personal claims are being filed by Canadians held, injured or forced to leave following Iraq's invasion of the emirate.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Soviet lawmakers urge renewed Iraqi ties

MOSCOW (AP) — Hardline Soviet lawmakers returning from a trip to Iraq said Thursday that Baghdad officials want to restore close ties with the Soviet Union but that Kremlin officials are resisting. The Soyuz group, a hardline contingent of Soviet legislators that has condemned Mikhail Gorbachev for supporting the war, sent a delegation to Iraq for a week this month at the invitation of the Iraqi parliament. Hardliners were angered that Mr. Gorbachev backed the coalition against Iraq, which the Soviet Union had armed since the 1970s and advised until last year.

Delegation leader Yevgeny Kogan said Iraqi officials, business and citizens emphasized the need to restore close Soviet-Iraqi ties, particularly in economic cooperation, according to the state news agency TASS. Mr. Kogan said Iraqi officials were willing to repay their debt to the Soviet Union with oil but that Soviet officials were refusing to renegotiate the debt. The size of the debt was not disclosed. "Mr. Kogan said the Soviet Foreign Ministry is not active enough and even shows political short-sightedness when it does not restore broad ties," TASS reported.

Mr. Kogan said he will raise the issue in parliament, TASS said. Mr. Kogan said the Soyuz delegation signed a joint statement with Iraqi legislators calling for the return of Soviet specialists "to help restore what was destroyed there during combat operations," TASS said.

Vanunu appeals against solitary confinement

TEL AVIV (R) — Convicted Israeli nuclear spy Mordechai Vanunu is appealing against a ruling that prison authorities may hold him in solitary confinement, Israeli army said Friday. It said Mr. Vanunu was appealing to Israel's supreme court to overturn a ruling by a lower court which said he possessed classified information that he tried to send abroad from prison via letters. It found prison authorities were thus justified in keeping him away from other prisoners. Mr. Vanunu, 36, was convicted in March 1988 of treason and espionage for allegedly selling Israeli nuclear secrets to a British newspaper and sentenced to 18 years in prison. He worked for nine years as a low-ranking technician at Israel's secret Dimona nuclear centre in the desert before telling the London Sunday Times newspaper in September 1986 that Israel had produced up to 200 atomic bombs at the site. Mr. Vanunu's original trial was shrouded in secrecy.

Djibouti returns Ethiopia aircraft

DJIBOUTI (R) — Djibouti has returned to Ethiopia 22 military aircraft flown there when the government of military dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam was overthrown in May. Djibouti state station said a representative of Ethiopia's new interim government was present at a handing-over ceremony at Djibouti air force base Thursday. The aircraft returned were Soviet-built MiGs, biplane gunships and passenger and training aircraft. Mengistu's air force collapsed several days before rebels took control in the capital Addis Ababa on May 28. Pilots flew to neighbouring Djibouti as the rebels closed in.

Algeria's former ruling party elects politburo

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's former ruling party Thursday elected a new leadership to help steer the country through general elections due later this year. The Algerian news agency APS said the 15-man politburo of the National Liberation Front (FLN) included reformist former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, whose economic policies faced opposition from party supporters of a rigidly-centralised economy. The politburo was elected after a closed session which was also addressed by Prime Minister Ahmad Ghazali. Mr. Ghazali briefed the central committee, which elected the politburo, on the poor state of the economy. He accused previous governments of opting for loans leading to increased indebtedness instead of trying to remedy the situation. APS said Mr. Ghazali told delegates the situation was very serious both for the security of Algerians and the country. "We are on the edge of a critical situation that we must master," he said.

U.N. to repatriate 250,000 Somalis

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Authorities will start to repatriate some 250,000 Somali refugees living in squalor in camps in Ethiopia from October, a United Nations spokesman said Thursday. About 600,000 Somalis have taken refuge in eastern Ethiopia to escape civil war in their neighbouring Horn of Africa nation. Many demanded to be sent home when U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata toured refugee camps in Ethiopia last month. The spokesman said a UNHCR team was preparing for their return to northern Somalia, ruled by a Somali armed group which declared secession from the rest of the war-torn country in May. The U.N. has been criticised for not re-establishing a permanent presence in Somalia seven months after former Somali dictator Mohammad Siad Barre was ousted from power.

U.S. to restore two Kuwait airbases

WASHINGTON (R) — Kuwait has agreed to pay \$105 million to repair two Kuwaiti air bases damaged during the Gulf war, the Defense Department said. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will oversee planning and engineering to restore minimum operations at the bases at Ahmad Al Jaber and Ali Al Salem, the Pentagon said.

Mother Teresa visits Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa Thursday offered her help to Sudanese children affected by war and drought, the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) said. Mother Teresa met with Brigadier Dominic Kassiano, member of the ruling Revolution Command Council. SUNA said that Mother Teresa offered the services of her Calcutta-based charity organization to help young victims of war and drought. There has been a civil war in south Sudan since 1983 which has displaced millions of civilians. And a drought in most of Sudan has created a famine which has affected millions more. Children and old people have been the first victims of the fighting and the famine but no figures are available.

Kuwait reported to have ended secondary boycott

The Jerusalem Post

NEW YORK — Kuwait no longer enforces the secondary Arab boycott against Israel — at least for U.S. firms — the American ambassador there says.

Ambassador Edward Sano, in a letter dated May 30 to Senator Ernest Hollings, said Kuwait publicly announced it no longer required companies to produce documents such as certificates of origin, which were previously used to police the boycott.

The letter was released yesterday by the World Jewish Con-

gress (WJC). Mr. Gnehm quoted the Kuwaiti director of customs as saying the boycott would be "different," and goods could be imported to Kuwait from any coalition country — regardless of the seller.

He said specifically the boycott "black list" would not be used against American companies," Mr. Gnehm wrote.

The ambassador denied media reports that "Jewish firms or Americans of the Jewish faith could not obtain contracts or employment in Kuwait."

"Those reports are simply not

true," Mr. Gnehm said.

Since Kuwait's liberation, many new American firms have found business opportunities in Kuwait, and many of those companies employ Americans of the Jewish faith."

Elan Steinberg, the WJC executive director, said the letter was important as an official written acknowledgement by the State Department that the boycott against American firms was stopped.

"In effect, it is the U.S. that is giving assurances Kuwait has lifted the boycott, and therefore

the onus of this policy remaining in effect remains with the U.S."

The American ambassador has taken a major responsibility in having reassured a U.S. senator that the boycott has been lifted.

But Mr. Steinberg suggested the Kuwaitis may have abandoned the boycott because Iraqi troops "looted the blacklist office in Kuwait City," leaving the complex boycott enforcement machinery "in a shambles."

"These files and records are not easily replaced," he said.

45% of Americans think stopping settlements should be condition for loan guarantees

The Jerusalem Post

NEW YORK — A majority of Americans believe the U.S. should require Israel to stop building settlements in the occupied territories as a condition for providing loan guarantees to resettle Soviet Jews, or believe the loans should not be granted under any circumstances, according to an NBC News/Wall Street Journal survey released Thursday.

Forty-five per cent of those surveyed responded that the loan guarantees should be granted only on condition that Israel be forced to stop building the settlements, while another 11 per cent said the U.S. should not provide the guarantees under any circumstances.

Only 29 per cent believed that the loan guarantees should be granted without the U.S. requiring Israel to halt settlement activity.

Fifty per cent of the more than 1,000 respondents felt that Israel should give up

control of land in the occupied territories and Golan Heights in exchange for a peace agreement with the Arab states; 34 per cent said Israel should not give up control, and 16 per cent were unsure.

According to the survey, which was conducted between July 26-29 — less than a week before Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir answered "yes" to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for a Middle East peace conference — more Americans still said they thought Israel was a bigger obstacle to Middle East peace than the Arab countries.

Asked who is "currently the biggest obstacle to finding a peace settlement in the Arab-Israeli dispute," 37 per cent of those surveyed answered Israel; 35 per cent said they thought it was the Arab nations, and 11 percent answered "both equally."

The survey had a margin of error of 3.2 per cent.

Kurdish guerrillas free ten German tourists

ANKARA (AP) — Ten German tourists who were kidnapped by Kurdish guerrillas in eastern Turkey a week ago were released Friday, a Germany Embassy spokesman said.

The Germans — four women, three men and three children — had been set free and were in the eastern town of Tatvan, the spokesman said.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency reported that the tourists were released in Cizre, located between the two neighbouring eastern provinces of Mus and Bitlis.

They were spotted by a passenger bus on the road around 0530 a.m. (0230 GMT) when the tourists waved and asked him to stop, the dispatch said.

The bus driver took them to a gas station and telephoned police from the gas station at 0730 a.m. (0430 GMT) and brought them to a police station in Tatvan, it added.

Journalists were only allowed to take photographs of the tourists briefly, Anatolia said. They appeared in good health but were exhausted and their outfits were covered with mud, it added.

Kurdish guerrillas abducted 15 German tourists from their camp site near a crater lake in the

eastern Bitlis province late Thursday. Five later managed to escape.

The guerrillas said the kidnapping was in retaliation for the prosecution of the members of the Kurdish Labour (PKK) in Germany.

Several PKK members live under refugee status in Germany and the German government has cracked down on several of them for their links with extremism.

The National Liberation Front of Kurdistan announced in Germany this week that the leadership of the Kurdish separatist movement did not approve of the kidnappings and the tourists would be released.

A spokesman for the front said the kidnappings were carried out by a regional operating group of the military wing of the PKK, which acted on its own.

PKK has been fighting in Turkey's mostly Kurdish southeast for seven years for a separate state. About 3,000 people have been killed in clashes since 1984.

It is rare for the guerrillas to target foreigners.

Turkish soldiers had searched the area to find the tourists over the past week. Two specially trained German policemen also joined the rescue operation.

WEATHER

Baltics supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate, freshening at times. In Aqaba, it will be dusty with northwesterly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.

</div

Children visit Petra



PETRA (Petra) — Children participating in the Arab Children's Congress held in Amman Thursday visited the archaeological city of Petra in south Jordan.

The children were briefed on the history of the city and the surrounding area and on means adopted to conserve it.

The children also visited Wadi Musa and met with children from the area at Wadi Musa Charitable Society. The visit is part of a week-long programme which entails, among other things, visits to Jordanian households, tours of archaeological and touristic sites and attendance of various cultural performances.

Children from Jordan, Algeria, Sudan, Palestine, Iraq and Tunisia are taking part in the congress which was opened Wednesday by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The congress, initiated in 1980 after the Amman Arab Summit, brings together children from various parts of the Arab World in a bid to help boost cultural interaction among Arab countries.

Jordan Alumni Club awards RJ

AMMAN (J.T.) — Director General of Royal Jordanian (RJ) airlines Husam Abu Ghazaleh Thursday received the trophy of the University of Jordan's Alumni Club in appreciation of RJ's role and its active participation in the celebration held by the club to mark the 39th anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The trophy was delivered to Mr. Abu Ghazaleh by club President Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, who visited Mr. Abu Ghazaleh in his office.

RJ participation in the celebration was in the form of a pavilion which had set up at the celebration site. The pavilion displayed photographs reflecting the most important activities performed by RJ.

Mr. Abu Ghazaleh expressed appreciation to the University of Jordan's Alumni Club.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Singapore

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to President Wee Kim Wee of Singapore congratulating him in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. The King sent his best wishes to President Wee and wished the people of Singapore further progress and prosperity.

Prince Hassan receives U.S. team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday received a U.S. human rights delegation currently visiting Jordan. Prince Hassan briefed the delegation on Jordan's stand on the Gulf crisis and the efforts it exerted to resolve it through peaceful means, on the basis of international legitimacy. He also explained to them Jordan's role during the crisis in providing assistance to hundreds of thousands of evacuees who flooded Jordan after Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. The Crown Prince reviewed during the meeting the possible developments in the current peace efforts which aim at solving the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem as well as relations between Jordan and the U.S.

Ramadan ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan Thursday wound up a two day visit to Jordan during which he conveyed a verbal message to His Majesty King Hussein from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Mr. Ramadan also held talks with Prime Minister Taher Masri and senior Jordanian officials on the situations in the region and the efforts being made to find a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine question, and bilateral Iraqi-Jordanian relations. He was seen off at the airport by Mr. Masri, Information and Culture Minister Khaled Al Karaki, who is also acting foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

JD 150 m collected in customs duty in 7 months

AMMAN (Petra) — Revenues from customs duty in the first seven months of 1991 amounted to JD 154,780,581, out of a total of an estimated JD 200,500,000 in the 1991 fiscal budget, according to Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan, director of the Customs Department. He said that the figures far exceeded those revenues collected in the same period of 1990 and gave a clear indication of a real improvement in the national economy and the country's economic performance over the past year. Dr. Farhan said that the improvement also reflected the effective measures adopted by the customs offices in collecting dues.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

* Exhibition of traditional embroideries and hand-made items at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.

Al Fuheis Cultural Festival

* Lecture, in Arabic, on "Immigration from Fuheis" by Khaled Munezel at the festival's site in Al Fuheis City — 5:30 p.m.

* Poetry recital by Jordanian poets Abdulla Radwan, Yousef Abd Al Aziz and Ali Al Fazan at the festival's site — 7:15 p.m.

* Concert by Jordanian singer Bishara Al Rababi at the Latin Church in Al Fuheis — 9:30 p.m.

Influx of repatriates, visitors given as reason for water shortage

AMMAN (Petra) — Drinking water shortage in certain areas of the Kingdom was caused by the return of large numbers of expatriates and the sudden arrival in the Kingdom of many visitors. They increased demand on water significantly, according to Minister of Water and Irrigation Samir Kawar.

He said in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministry over the past four weeks was pumping 600 cubic metres per hour of water as additional quantities from Al Hudan region to Amman to meet the increasing demand for water.

He added that electrical power disruptions, for three weeks, exacerbated the water shortage problem. "Electrical power cuts, even for a few minutes, halt the process of pumping water for hours," the minister said.

The ministry intends in the near future to conduct a study on the quantities of irrigation water available and the quantities required for the new agricultural season in the Jordan Valley region in order to inform farmers of the water situation and the minister.

able substitutes to achieve this objective."

Every summer Amman is visited by thousands of expatriates who come to spend their vacations with their families. This year, more than 350,000 Jordanians and Palestinians returned from Kuwait and several Arab Gulf states because of the situation there. In addition, more than 100,000 Iraqis visited Jordan this summer because of various reasons.

Mr. Kawar said that there were about 17 million cubic metres of water for irrigation in the King Talal dam and that this quantity was not sufficient in the light of the increasing demand.

The ministry intends in the near future to conduct a study on the quantities of irrigation water available and the quantities required for the new agricultural season in the Jordan Valley region in order to inform farmers of the water situation and the minister.

try's capabilities so that they reduce water consumption, the minister said.

He affirmed that water in the King Talal dam was not polluted and was fit for agricultural use. But he added, as water in the dam decreases, it will be difficult to determine whether the water will be fit for irrigation.

"This will be determined by the availability of water in reasonable quantities and we are trying to preserve the rights of the farmers, whether now or in the future. Therefore we conduct laboratory tests on water flowing in and out of the dam and we will soon have a clear picture of the water situation in terms of available quantities, required quantities, substitute water sources and other related things," he said.

"Farmers will be familiarised with all our findings so that we cooperate together in drawing the features of the coming agricultural stage in the Jordan Valley."



Scenic view from Dana Wildlife Reserve (file photo)

Nature societies express concern over state of Dana Wildlife Reserve

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A joint study by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) conducted in 1976 has been reactivated recently by RSCN and the Forestry Department at Ministry of Agriculture.

The president of RSCN, Anis Muasher, said that conservation and development were often perceived as being conflicting missions. "This need not be the case," Mr. Muasher said. "RSCN is setting out at Dana to harmonise these two objectives."

Mr. Muasher added that the Dana project was not only a nature reserve but an integrated conservation project encompassing the protection of natural species of the region along with planning and assistance in controlled development of the area surrounding the reserve.

Dana reserve encompasses 150 square kilometres, ranging from wooded mountains, in the northern sector, to a lesser scrub steppe in the south.

Last year, the Ministry of

Agriculture, officially designated Dana as a nature reserve, consequently, defining the role of RSCN.

"RSCN has already appointed a team of wardens to patrol the reserve area and enforce the protected status of the reserve," Mr. Muasher said. "An extensive reforestation programme is being conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture with German assistance."

According to Mr. Muasher, the project encompasses the additional measures needed to make the Dana Wildlife Reserve complete. "The reforestation programme will continue and the indigenous trees of the area will be protected and cared for to prevent a recurrence of the petrification that afflicted some trees in the recent past," he said.

The reserve will also be host to a wildlife reintroduction centre. "The centre will be an integral part of the RSCN captive breeding programme that is aimed at restoring to Jordan endangered species that have become locally extinct," Mr. Muasher said.

Addressing the closing session of the gathering, which included 120 Jordanian youth working or studying abroad, Youth Minister Sarsh Ershaidat underlined the role of youth in serving local community and recalled the objectives of such national gatherings.

On Friday, a delegation representing Oman Chamber of Industry and Commerce arrived in Amman. The delegation comprises members of the chamber's board of directors and executive council Salem Al Khalili and Salem Al Jahouri.

A delegation representing Damascus Chamber of Industry arrives today. The delegation will comprise the chamber's Board of Directors Chairman Yahya Al Nada, the chamber's Director General Abdul Majid Malkani and member of the Board of Directors Adel Al Husseini.

Before ending their meetings, participants visited the Public

Security Department (PSD) where they were briefed by PSD Director Maj. General Fadel Ali Fuheid on the duties of the Public Security Department.

Maj. Gen. Fuheid said that the PSD personnel did not spare any effort in providing security and stability for citizens and the country.

He said that the PSD personnel was fully equipped to protect citizens and their property, and to provide the necessary security climate necessary for the economic and social development.

He spoke about the role of the PSD personnel in ensuring the sound performance of the parliamentary elections which took place in November 1989.

He stressed the public security philosophy saying that it is based on respect of law and safeguarding national security without any intimidation or threat.

More expatriates to arrive

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The fresh flow of expatriates from Kuwait, which began last week is expected to continue mostly throughout this month and September, with close to 10,000 arrivals before the end of September, expatriate sources said Friday.

Two chartered planes brought in 340 expatriates Friday. Other flights are expected later this week.

"Technically one cannot call it expulsion by the Kuwaiti authorities, but that is what is practically amounts to," said an expatriate who has volunteered his services to help the returnees. "The (Kuwaiti) employers are not renewing their work and residence permits. Some of them are hanging on in Kuwait only to collect their severance pay and close their accounts with banks," said the volunteer who preferred not to be identified since several of his family members remain in the emirate.

"When there is no employment and you can't even send your children to school, what is the purpose of staying on in any country?" he asked.

Reports from Kuwait have said that children of expatriates whose countries were perceived as supporters of Iraq during the Gulf crisis were being denied admission.

Some of the returnees said they lived through the seven-month occupation of Kuwait and opted to stay on with the hope of finding alternative employers. "But the government policy of 'Kuwaitisation' of the employment market worked against us," said a civil engineer who returned Tuesday.

"As if that were not enough, there is the perpetual mistreatment and fear of persecution" by Kuwaitis, said the engineer who identified himself as Yasser, a native of Qabelet, near Nablus, in the occupied West Bank.

The retrenchment of Jordanian and Palestinian workers upon the expiry of their work

permits is widely seen as Kuwaiti government retribution against what the emirate's residents saw as Palestinian and Jordanian support for Iraq.

Kuwaitis went on a rampage against Jordanians, Palestinians, Yemenis and Sudanese following the liberation of the emirate in late February. Dozens were killed and hundreds were tortured. Many remain in detention.

"Very few Kuwaitis are willing to acknowledge that if it was not for their Palestinian friends, they would have starved to death during the occupation," said Yasser.

"They have forgotten that it was only the Palestinians who gave them shelter and food when the Iraqis were on lookout for Kuwaitis," he added.

"It was also Palestinians who intervened with the Iraqis and stopped them from storming Kuwaiti homes in exclusively Kuwaiti residential areas and ensured that residents of these areas got bread and water," he recounted.

"There may be some Palestinians who supported the Iraqi invasion, but long-term Palestinian residents (of the emirate) were against it and they extended help to the Kuwaitis wherever they could," he said. "See what the Kuwaitis are giving us in return?"

Yasser explained that many of the expatriates were waiting for Kuwaiti banks to lift restrictions on withdrawals on Aug. 3 before leaving the emirate. "They had their life savings in bank accounts and they knew that it would be a long process before they could get their money if they were to leave Kuwait without it," he said.

"They went to their banks as soon as the restrictions were lifted, withdrew all their money and fled further persecution and degradation," he said.

Following the liberation of Kuwait, the emir regime put dozens of Palestinians and Jordanians on trial for alleged

ly helping the occupation. However, bowing to Arab and international pressure, the emir government has commuted the death sentences passed on 29 people.

Hundreds remain in Kuwaiti jails facing trials, which are expected to begin after the transfer of their cases to civilian courts from a military court, whose functions were terminated with the end of the martial law in the emirate in July.

"The situation is still very unsafe in Kuwait for us," said Yasser. "Some Kuwaitis still openly attack Palestinians and Jordanians while others treat you like dirt and spit at you," he said.

Some of those who arrived here last week were taken to the plane direct from jails where they were being held without charges, he said.

"There is no dignified life for any non-Kuwaiti in Kuwait except for Europeans and Americans," he said.

Over 850 expatriates landed in Amman aboard privately chartered planes from Kuwait this week, and another 1,900 are expected to arrive by mid-August, according to official sources.

Also expected to begin some time soon is an overland flow of others who cannot afford to pay the charter, but the situation on the Iraqi-Kuwait border or whether the Kuwaiti government will permit voluntary crossing to Iraq remains unknown.

Most of the latest arrivals here are believed to be residents of the West Bank who carry temporary Jordanian passports. The authorities have appealed that those who need not urgently reach the West Bank stay back in the East Bank for a few days so as not to clog the bridges across the river.

"Not all of the returnees have money," said the volunteer. "Some of them could hardly pay the air fare to Amman, and these people are the real ones who need help from everyone."

Investigation to be conducted into low tawjihi pass rate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is opening an investigation into the reasons behind the low level results of the 1990-1991 tawjihi examinations in the Kingdom.

Minister of Education Eid Dahiya issued a circular to all educational departments to complete their investigations in four weeks.

Investigations at each school should be conducted separately so as to determine the rate of

success and failure and their reasons so that measures for non-recurrence can be taken, the circular said.

The minister said that the result of the survey would be submitted to a special Ministry of Education committee.

The results of the tawjihi examinations were announced by the minister on July 19. He told a press conference that the number of students who registered for the examinations was 62,861. Only

57,365 sat for the tests. Dr. Dahiya said that the overall passing rate, in all branches for regular students, was 51.9 per cent, considered low compared to previous years.

Dr. Dahiya said that the number of students who failed the examination this year was high and stressed the need for evaluating the educational development process involving teachers, students and the school curricula.

On the unemployment problem, the minister said that it was a nation-wide dilemma which affected every sector. He called for intensifying all efforts to face this problem.

The minister admitted there were shortcomings and gaps in the regulation regarding the civil servants and called for reconsidering it in order to achieve the best public interests of all sectors.

The minister stressed the need for forging closer cooperation between the ministry and the Engineers Association and pledged to further consolidate such cooperation to serve the best interests of the country.

The minister then visited the Jordanian Contractors Association, where he met with the president and members of the board.

Mr. Srour was briefed on the problems facing the contractors' sector by the association's president.

The president called for solving some of the issues which are still unresolved by the ministry and for giving priority to local contractors when carrying out projects in the country.

Mr. Srour said that his ministry was doing its best to support and develop the contractors' sector in Jordan, considering its important contribution in pushing the wheel of the Jordanian economy forward.

Travellers to Nablus Governorate have to register at Amman Bint Saab School on Jabal Amman.

People wishing to cross to the

occupied territories from government offices other than Amman can register at special centres that will be opened at police departments and schools.

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Freedom is not one-way street

THE KIDNAPPING of the French national, Jerome Leyraud, in Beirut Thursday, the same day Britain's John McCarthy was freed from captivity, can be easily described as a conspiracy to sabotage the hostage-release process, as indeed the Lebanese were saying yesterday. The new kidnapping can also be seen as a blow to the efforts of the Lebanese government to reestablish order and security in the country after so many years of civil strife, bloody war and hostage taking.

As U.S. President George Bush put it Aug. 7, there is a needless cruelty to hostage holders and their actions, especially when they play the game of "imminent releases" and do not deliver. But the issue goes beyond just the Western hostages held in Lebanon, since there are many Lebanese and Palestinians held hostage in Israel in direct connection with the Westerners and a number of Israelis held by the Islamic Jihad group, and thousands of other Palestinians held in Israeli jails for no reason than standing up to the occupation of their homeland and repressive practices against their fellow countrymen.

The problem of Western hostages, needless to say, goes beyond the borders of Lebanon.

Iran has a big role in it, since the Islamic Republic has had a score to settle with the West. However, it was mostly the Arab-Lebanese Shites, long the underdog in pro-Western, pre-war Lebanon, who ultimately took it on themselves to wage the battle against the West in Beirut and the Israelis in the south of Lebanon. In the process hundreds of Palestinians and Shiite Lebanese ended up in Israeli detention camps. Shiite leaders were kidnapped by the Israelis from their homes. Furthermore the Shites have claimed that those kidnapped were spies. This could be totally false, as many of the hostages are long-time friends of the Arabs and their causes. The West, especially the U.S., are the strategic allies of Israel. The Americans provide Israel with the funds to sustain its survival, with the weapons that guarantee it an edge over the Arabs and with political cover that enable it to deny the Palestinians and the Lebanese their rights. The hostages, as fellow human beings, all have our sympathy. They should be released without delay. Likewise, hostages in Israeli jails should also be released. The much sought-after peace in the region cannot be a one-way street. Confidence-building measures should be enhanced from all directions. If any, the strong and mighty should take the initiative. The West in particular should put enough pressure on Israel to start releasing the Palestinians and the Lebanese held in Israeli jails as a precursor to releasing all other hostages.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

FAILURE on the part of the Islamic foreign ministers conference to reach a consensus over the need for lifting the embargo on Iraq should not deter the Arab countries from embarking on an initiative of their own to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people, said Al Ra'i's Arabic daily Friday. It is unreasonable to see the year-old Gulf crisis still adversely affecting Arab and Islamic relations, and it is unacceptable to see the Arabs resigned to their fate of divisions and in total disarray at a time when the Israelis and the Americans continued to concert their plans with regard to the Gulf issue and the Middle East problem the daily said. A call by Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour on the Islamic countries to join hands and end differences and save the Palestinian and Iraqi people reflected an earlier call several months ago by His Majesty King Hussein who said Jordan was opening its arms for the Arab countries and turning a new leaf in inter-Arab relations, the paper noted. There is an urgent need for the Arab countries to meet now and end the process of starving the Iraqi people and there is an urgent need for the Arabs to meet and discuss their next move in the face of the ongoing Middle East peace efforts, the paper stressed. It said that nothing can be achieved in the interest of the Arab countries in the absence of coordination of stands and solidarity in the true sense of the word.

Al Dustour daily criticised the Western nations for condoning Turkey's military operations inside Iraqi territory in pursuit of Kurdish rebels. Such attitude on the part of the Western capitals is a moral scandal for the statesmen of the West and for the Western forces which are stationed a few miles from the fields of operations, the paper said. While the Western countries brag about their concern over the Kurdish people's rights and justify their presence in Iraqi territory on that assumption, they allow the Turks not only to invade a neighbouring country, but also to attack Kurdish camps and their residents who are supposedly under Western protection, the paper noted. Many people in the West and the East had thought that the presence of the Western forces in northern Iraq was a manifestation of the Western nations' concern over the fate of the Kurds, but are now disillusioned when they see the Western forces paving the ground for the Turkish assault, the paper continued. The Turkish air raids on the Kurds and the continuing ground attacks on the Kurdish strongholds expose the truth about the Western nations' real intentions and emphasise the fact that the West is adopting a double standard policy in all matters and in a way that can best serve its interests.

Feeding democracy

By Saifan Bataineh

CAN democracy put food on our tables? Apparently not, according to research conducted on the links between democracy and economic growth. The research has turned up scant evidence that democracy can support or accelerate the process of wealth creation. The only casualty, in fact, exists in the other direction. Rising standards of living intensify demands for increased liberties while poverty breeds intolerance and paves the way for authoritarianism. Thus the dual nature of the challenge facing the government: economic growth, which must be considered as the number one economic objective, has to be pursued both for its own sake and in order to preserve democracy, a long-cherished political objective. This is a clear vindication for the argument that Jordan's economic and political issues are fundamentally intertwined and must be treated inseparably by means of the wider percepts of political economy and within the guidelines of a clear overall policy.

This argument has been made repeatedly and forcefully at the highest levels in Jordan. Yet, successive governments have continued to produce jaded renditions of the laundry list that passes for a governmental manifesto: a collection of often contradictory statements, each prepared separately by the relevant ministry, and an assortment of wishful proclamations that makes fitting reading only for Santa Claus. Lacking coherent policies and armed with no more than a trite and frag-

mented agenda, governments then proceed to tackle cases and problems as they spring up and to find quick and simple solutions for them in light of the day's mood, while long-term problems continue to fester and become more intractable than ever.

There is cause for guarded optimism, however, as the new generation politicians take over the cabinet posts, replacing cliques with party politics and bringing fresh enthusiastic vigor to where cynicism often prevailed. And although the manifesto and early statements of the new cabinet offer little relief from short-termism, the manner by which Prime Minister Taher Masri has chosen the members of his cabinet and the speedy revival of the Economic Advisory Council betray the man's commitment to open and impartial government and his willingness to draw upon the experience and knowledge of the best in Jordan.

Paradoxically, feeding democracy with economic growth can be made a doubly cumbersome task by democracy itself, simply because many of the right growth policies are no vote-getters. Therefore, it will take a determined self-assured cabinet (and a progressive central bank) to pursue long-term policies despite numerous short-term hazards. On paper, the present government looks very capable of following such a path. With almost no hidden skeletons in its collective closet, and featuring some stalwart free marketeers in the key economic posts, this government should have no problem facing up to

Parliament and even converting its members, who are clearly not versed in economic affairs, to the teachings of market-based economics.

The success or failure of the government will hinge on the speedy implementation of effective growth policies that may bear fruit long after present ministers have vacated their seats. Undoubtedly, the government will waste no time in putting together detailed and comprehensive sets of policies that will serve as a rigid guidelines for present and future cabinets. These policies will be based on relevant and proven models and will pronounce economic growth as the overriding national priority, subordinating all other objectives and considerations to it. They will not be mere excerpts from IMF and World Bank memorandums but rather the product of intensive brain-storming sessions involving ministers, general secretaries, department heads as well as members of the Economic Advisory Council.

Once these policies have been understood and approved by the entire cabinet, certain ministers will no longer feel the urge to splash the front pages with their own heroic, panacea measures, which make them sound like alchemists on the election trail, but will instead communicate government's policies to the public. They will address the essence of our economic malaise and not the symptoms, replacing clever "solutions" with hard-nosed reforms. Never again, for example, will we hear of solutions for unemployment

that are bound to aggravate the problem in the long-run, but will hear instead about reforms designed to expand the economy and its uses of productive resources. Concepts like self-sufficiency, which can be achieved in both riches and poverty, will be dropped from our economic jargon in favor of such things as increased production, higher productivity, and improved competitiveness of exports.

In implementation, the government will be tough and uncompromising, heeding neither the calls of special interest groups nor the temptation of patronage. It will take a hard look at the size and efficacy of the public sector and then put in motion a radical restructuring designed to produce a lean and responsive bureaucracy whose main role is to support economic activities rather than generate them. The government will recognise that no easy solutions exist for complex and intractable problems. Only drastic surgery will be prescribed for chronic and structural defects.

It is never easy to do the right thing and not receive acclaim for it. But then the high office was never meant to be anything other than a heavy moral burden. The race for economic growth is a race against time and other hard working nations. At stake is nothing less than the future prosperity of our children. So the highest reward a public servant can receive for all his tough decisions is the satisfaction of knowing that he has given his children and their playmates a fighting chance for a better future.



Letter From Geneva

New grounds covered at Geneva human rights panel

By Waleed Sadi

GENEVA — The 43rd session of the U.N. Human Rights subcommission on the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities commenced its meeting here Sunday with a big bang. The newly elected chairman of the human rights group, Mr. Louis Joinet, a French national, threw a bombshell at his opening speech when he announced a series of policy measures that he intended to take in order to make the subcommission more effective and relevant. This immediately drew strong reactions from the members of the subcommission who insisted on reflecting more on the new and revolutionary ideas that Mr. Joinet had just introduced before they could be adopted.

The new policy guidelines would streamline the agenda of the committee and combine issues under one heading. He also took issue with the U.S. position that the committee has grown to be redundant and may have to be phased out if it did not stick to its original mandate which is to establish standards for human rights instead of turning into a mini-U.N. general assembly where every subject under the sun is discussed.

Columnist Fahd Al Faneck focused attention on the return to Jordan from the Gulf region of 270,000 Jordanians and Palestinians and the arrival in the country of 130,000 Iraqis. He said that the presence of an additional 400,000 people in Jordan which has very meager resources is a heavy burden on the national economy and the Jordanian people themselves. Only a minority of the returnees possess large sums of money to start businesses and production projects while the rest have nothing and no skills, the writer noted.

He said that Israel gets \$100,000 for each settler from the Western nations, while Jordan is getting nothing for the absorption of this large number of extra people.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily drew attention to the fact that government-owned cars with red license plates were not being used solely to offer services to the government, but rather to offer services to senior government officials. He said that in the absence of strict controls by the police and the Audit Bureau such cars continue to operate at well long after office hours have ended and specially at night.

Nazih Qusous said such cars are often seen at the start of the scholastic year transporting children of senior officials to school and back and such cars are also used to transport directors in the ministers' office and secretaries in the ministry home and to work. He demanded stricter government control over the use of government vehicles to rationalise energy consumption and to safeguard public interest.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily focused attention on the restaurants and hotels in Jordan. He said that the number of universities and community colleges does not augur well for the future, partly because these institutions were set up by businessmen who formed share-holding companies determined to

world and to internal relations."

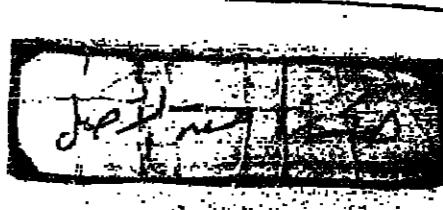
Of course in this context the U.N. undersecretary general did not break any new grounds, since it is well established in human rights jurisprudence that state sovereignty is no longer accepted as a pretext for refusing the perusal of the human rights record of any state. What is possibly new about Mr. Martenson's statement is that it was linked with the events of the Gulf crisis and not to other areas where human rights issues are also figuring highly.

Iraq is once again earmarked for extensive debate on its human rights record in this forum as well. Lacking friends and supporters, Baghdad is ill-prepared to defend itself yet again before this U.N. organ.

The human rights situation in the occupied territories will surely be discussed and dealt with in a rather roundabout manner as has been the case year in and year out. The responsibility for this undramatic treatment of Palestinian human rights lies with the Arab spokesmen whose interventions are usually low key and uneventful.

Meanwhile, the Dutch delegate to the meetings of the working group on contemporary forms of slavery — child prostitution, child labour, women trafficking, sale of children for organ transplants purposes and other related issues — continued to defend her government's tolerance of prostitution. Based on the principle of self-determination, she said, women in the exercise of their right to self-determination have a right to engage in prostitution or exploitation. This marks the first time ever in the annals of the U.N. system that the principle of self-determination has been invoked in such situations and as pretext to legalise prostitution under "voluntary conditions."

What was even more astonishing to hear at this working group is the shocking revelations made possible by several non-governmental groups (NGOs) that millions of women are being trafficked from one part of the developing world to the other and beyond for prostitution purposes. Even more horrific to hear was the disclosure that thousands of children from developing countries get trafficked in order to remove their organs for Western countries recipients. Such charges have yet to be established but the reports that thousands of Brazilian children have ended up in Europe for this purpose is drawing much demand for closer examination and investigation by the U.N. system and the Interpol.



Afghan peace process progressing slowly

KABUL (Agencies) — Efforts to reach a political solution to the 13-year-old Afghan civil war are slowly making progress, according to a United Nations envoy. "I remain optimistic that irrespective of any setback, the process is moving forward irresistibly," Beno Sevan, the U.N. secretary-general's personal representative on Afghanistan, told reporters.

"It is still, however, a slow process," he said after an overnight stay in Kabul where he met President Najibullah and officials of his Soviet-backed government. He did not elaborate.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar proposed a five-point peace plan in May which envisages a ceasefire and a transitional administration leading to elections.

Some radical guerrilla parties have rejected the plan.

Most guerrilla parties, which met Pakistani and Iranian officials in Islamabad late last month, agreed the plan could serve as a possible basis for a settlement and decided to seek clarifications.

The next tripartite meeting is set for Aug. 27-29 in Tehran.

U.N. sources in Kabul said the main obstacle to progress was a psychological barrier among the Mujahedeen guerrillas to talks with Mr. Najibullah or members of his government and ruling Watan Party.

Almost all guerrilla parties publicly refuse to talk to Mr. Najibullah. But some guerrilla leaders have secretly met Mr. Najibullah's representatives in recent months, Western diplomats and guerrilla sources have said.

No details of Mr. Sevan's talks in Kabul were available. The talks were mainly to consider the options available and to assess the scope for compromise, the U.N. sources said.

Mr. Sevan is expected to return to Kabul in late August or early September, they said.

A guerrilla commander was killed by a rocket while fighting government forces in eastern Afghanistan, guerrilla sources in Pakistan said Thursday.

They said commander Ziarat Gul of the Ittehad-i-Islami guerrilla party was killed and four of his comrades were wounded Wednesday at Surkhakhan as government forces tried to open the blocked highway between the capital Kabul and the main eastern town of Jalalabad.

Intense fighting has raged in the area since last week when the Mujahedeen guerrillas said they had blocked the Kabul-Jalalabad highway as a prelude to an assault on Jalalabad itself.

Afghan authorities said Wednesday their forces had killed 13 Sandi supporters of the rebels in battles on the highway on Tuesday.

Kabul and the Western-backed guerrillas have both claimed victories in the recent battles.

Afghan rebel news services Thursday reported exchange of heavy artillery fire between the two sides around Jalalabad and the nearby Darunta and Samarkand areas.

Hostage crisis tentacles reach far from Lebanon

THE HAGUE (AP) — The web ensnaring Western hostages in Lebanon extends to Shiite Muslim prisoners held by Germany, Palestinians detained by Israel and a decade-old financial dispute between Iran and the United States.

British journalist John McCarthy, freed Thursday after five years of captivity in Lebanon, said he carried a letter from his captors, Islamic Jihad, proposing an exchange of all Western and Lebanese hostages and prisoners held in Lebanon and Israel. The letter was to be delivered to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The hostage issue was clouded further Thursday

when an underground group claimed it had kidnapped a Frenchman in Lebanon to protest Mr. McCarthy's release, and would execute him if more hostages were freed.

The claim seemed to signal a

split between those hostage-taking groups in Beirut who seek to end the crisis and hardliners who want to hold onto the captives until they can achieve freedom for Arab detainees held by Israel.

Israel says it is willing to release the approximately 375 Lebanese prisoners held in Israel or by its South Lebanon Army (SLA) surrogates in southern Lebanon. But it demands the release of seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982.

The Lebanese held by Israel

include Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, a Shiite cleric kidnapped by Israeli agents in Lebanon in 1989 as a bargaining chip to obtain the release of the seven Israelis.

Until now, Islamic Jihad's

demands also have included the release of an estimated 10,000 Palestinians detained in the occupied territories for anti-Israeli resistance. Israel has firmly rejected this.

The Israeli political scene still echoes from the 1985 exchange of 1,550 Palestinian detainees for three Israeli captives.

The trade evoked wide-

spread grassroots criticism as being disproportionate, and it has been claimed that the freed Palestinians became the core of the intifada.

But Israel's military credo is to do everything possible to obtain the release of its own captured soldiers.

Israel's chief hostage expert, senior defense ministry official Uri Lubrani, believes that Iran will not intervene in the hostage issue unless it gets something in return.

Another conflict stems from Iran's demand that assets held by the United States be released before it will pressure the kidnappers assumed to hold most Western hostages in Lebanon.

U.S. officials at the Iranian United States claims tribunal in the Hague contend that Washington no longer holds the billions of dollars in Iranian assets it froze in the wake of the 1979 U.S. embassy seizure in Tehran.

The only major issues still outstanding after the arbitration panel are Iranian claims for war赔 and other military equipment belonging to or ordered by Iran before its 1979 revolution, the officials say.

Iran has set the value of those claims at \$12 billion, a figure Washington discounts as highly inflated.

Most of the 12 Westerners still missing in Lebanon — six Americans, three Britons, two Germans and an Italian — are believed held by pro-Iranian groups like Islamic Jihad.

On July 19, Islamic Jihad issued a veiled threat against the two Germans, warning of "grave consequences" unless Lebanese Mohammad and Abbas Hamadi were freed from German cells. Islamic Jihad accused the German government of torturing the Hamadis.

On July 24, a group calling itself Holy Warriors for Freedom, also believed composed of pro-Iranian Shiites, threatened "extremely negative action" unless Germany provided details on the condition of the Hamadis.

Talabani: Jordan is an example

(Continued from page 1)

Foreign Minister Safi Giray Thursday said Turkey would uphold Iraq's territorial integrity. Turkish forces had advanced 10

kilometres into northern Iraq Thursday, a senior military officer said. The raid followed a PKK attack on a border post last Sunday in which nine soldiers and a village guard were killed.

New abduction seen to delay

(Continued from page 1)

at 6:30 p.m. (1530 GMT).

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr. Leyraud did not put up any resistance while he was being led to a waiting car.

It was the first abduction of a Westerner in Beirut since Oct. 1989.

Foreigners had begun to trickle back, and Germans in Beirut said their embassy told them not to go out at night and to keep in close touch with friends.

The German and other Western embassies refused to confirm if any security precautions were taken.

"Jerome Leyraud's abduction yesterday was an assassination of peace in Beirut and an abduction of

the joy that has prevailed in Beirut," said Mr. Khatib.

He told a news conference at the interior ministry there was a clue in the case but would not disclose what it was, beyond saying the situation resulted from a battle "between intelligence agencies" and "Lebanon was the victim."

Jean Pormi, the vice president of Doctors of the World, flew into Beirut Friday.

"We have no information so far. We shall contact the civilian and military authorities as well as the French embassy," Mr. Pormi said at an airport statement.

Fifteen Frenchmen previously were taken hostage in Lebanon. One died in captivity and the last three were freed in May 1988.

Playing peacemaker in Gaza

By Katia Sabet

GAZA STRIP — Even if a Mideast peace conference is finally convened, will it come in time to save a people marked by 40 years of repression and dire poverty? While the diplomatic world, braced by Syria's acceptance of the conference, was trying to coax Israel to the negotiating table, Palestinians in the occupied territories had little to rejoice about. More land is being seized by the Israeli government, and violence continues.

On the terrace of the Beach Club in Gaza, looking out at the silvery sea and a deserted beach, a group of young people talk. "Today at Khan Younes we had to sweat to keep a 12-year-old from being arrested," says one. "The soldiers were advised that it would be better to let him go, that there would be violence if they insisted on detaining him."

"But one of the Israeli was young, a raw recruit, he didn't want to hear anything," adds a young woman. "A crowd began to gather... he really felt the heat," continues the first speaker. "Finally his superior arrived and smoothed things over. They took the kid away, but he doesn't have an ID yet so they'll release him tonight."

The young men and women sitting around the table drinking beer could be taken for affluent youth whose only worry was where to end the evening. In fact before getting up at 5 a.m. the next morning to face other life-threatening challenges, they drive home through streets stilled by curfew, protected somewhat by the United Nations sign painted on the side of their vehicle.

No one knows life in the refugee camps better than these U.N. refugee affairs officers. Every day, driving around in constant radio contact with their chief, they tour the eight overcrowded camps in the Gaza Strip, always there when things start to heat up between the refugees and the Israeli army, stepping in sometimes physically to prevent acts of violence, trying if at all possible to prevent the soldiers from overreacting when they are ready to lash out too forcefully at victims who are too weak. The work of the young U.N. volunteers has trained them to avoid mixing personal feelings with the job. They only allow themselves a hint of disgust when they hear about children badly beaten, unarmed demonstrators systematically wounded in the legs, and the soldiers' violent intrusions in the middle of the night in the huts in which perhaps 10 or 15 Palestinian refugees are crammed. Any excuse will do: a search for a "terrorist," a simple request to check identity papers.

On the table at the Beach Club a two-way radio begins to crackle: Volunteers are required to go to the Khan Younes camp, where a volatile situation has developed. Two officers rush to their vehicle and drive off into the night. Their presence is the only protection that the camps' inhabitants have against the daily violence of the occupation, but the outside world knows little about it.

They have no authority and sometimes just being there keeps the worst from happening. Their status as U.N. officials does not protect them from being exposed to physical and verbal abuse. J., English, had his thumb broken by an Israeli soldier. R., Spanish,

psychological disorders that

affect a high proportion of adults who, having been physically traumatised, enter a process of victimisation that can last for years. These people truly suffer, because their trauma is repeated daily."

Dr. Serraj also mentions

cases of speech impairment or

mental illness stemming from the same cause. "Further," he states, "one of the direct results of the Israeli violence in the camps is the violence that the Palestinians inflict on themselves: aggressiveness caused by frustration and impotent rage finds an outlet in various criminal acts, flaunting all forms of authority, including parental authority, and finally, suicide."

As a result, Ms. Shawwa asked

for the services of a psychologist

to persuade young victims to

accept aid that the entire com-

munity feels owes them. The

job was filled by Nago Humbert,

a consultant to the World Health

Organization, for whom the ex-

perience was an awakening. "In-

itially," he wrote, "the idea of



A young boy wounded by Israeli "plastic" bullets receives treatment at a rehabilitation centre in Gaza. (WNL)

who have been physically injured during the confrontations in the Gaza Strip. Here, too, children are the first victims. A very high number of children suffer from cerebral palsy because their mothers were exposed to tear gas when they were pregnant," says Jerry Shawwa, a young American married to a Palestinian. She has plunged into refugee work sponsored by the Benevolent Society for the Gaza Strip, founded by her husband's family. In the Child Development Centre which she directs, Ms. Shawwa has found that one child in 20 suffers from malformation or developmental disabilities caused by living conditions — overpopulation, lack of basic needs, malnutrition or prenatal trauma.

There are the wounded of the uprising who have been shot, pummeled with rifle butts or clubbed. The Israelis reply to the stones of the youth of Gaza with bullets that they call plastic bullets but that are real bullets encased in plastic. Because the lengthening list of intifada fatal casualties — about 700 hundred — is a blot on Israel's image, the soldiers respond to a shower of stones by shooting at legs. The number of young men, young women and children handicapped in their lower limbs is so high that a factory was opened in Gaza to make artificial limbs and wheelchairs. The plant, also sponsored by the Benevolent Society, is managed by another member of the Shawwa family, Ali.

"Unfortunately," says Mr. Shawwa, "there are no facilities in Gaza to help handicapped people begin to live a normal life. The streets are in disrepair, and the houses in the camps don't have the floor surfaces that would allow people in wheelchairs to get around. In addition many of the young wounded won't come to see us because they are ashamed to be seen in such a condition and are too proud to ask for an artificial limb that they can't pay for."

As a result, Ms. Shawwa asked for the services of a psychologist to persuade young victims to accept aid that the entire community feels owes them. The job was filled by Nago Humbert, a consultant to the World Health Organization, for whom the experience was an awakening. "Initially," he wrote, "the idea of

in the context of a modern, civilised nation, Dr. Serraj turns to psychiatry. "The Jewish culture is full of psychopathologies," he says. "To understand Israel one must examine the history of the Jewish people, a history of persecution and suffering... their fear is transformed into a paranoia in which everyone and everything that is not Jewish is potentially against the Jew and probably at some point will attempt to attack and destroy them. Zionist theories contain the message of the birth of the new Jew, the victorious one... Hatred of the Nazis has led them to identify with the Nazis and to act the same way toward us. It's the same pattern that you see when a child is abused by his father and then later he himself becomes an abuser. That is how the cycle of hate and violence is perpetuated." — World News Link.



In the factory operated by the Benevolent Society, workers inspect an artificial limb. The plant, which also makes wheelchairs, was opened to meet the needs of the large number of men, women, and children whose legs have been injured by Israeli bullets. (WNL)

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SPORTS

Cuban beats U.S. fighter in Pan Am boxing match

HAVANA (R) — The long-anticipated first brawl between the United States and Cuba in the boxing competition at the Pan American Games ended with the U.S. boxer on the seat of his pants.

At least symbolically, that's where the United States has been for most of the games which end on Aug. 18.

Facing possibly losing its title as top medals winner, boxing is one of the key areas where the U.S. may still be able to make up the difference in a medals shortfall which on the sixth day of the games leaves them 20 golds behind Cuba.

The U.S.-Cuba matchup — the second of eight fights on the night — was a light flyweight contest between Rogelio Marcelo of Cuba and Bradley Martinez.

Martinez, hit by four unanswered lefts in the opening seconds of the bout, looked baffled by fighting a southpaw.

He tried to pick off the left-handed punches but Marcelo — always swarming over his opponent — landed almost at will and dropped Martinez, 21, with a short left hook to the head with about 45 seconds left in the first round.

Referee David Sandoval of Mexico immediately stopped the fight and ran over to take Martinez's mouthpiece out.

The 3500 crowd, many waving cardboard hand fans in the sweltering heat, greeted the introduction of their fighter with a roar. When the referee stopped the fight, the crowd exploded, waving Cuban flags while the national festival beat of a rumba blared through the arena.

"I hit him with a short left," Marcelo, 26, said. "He had his defense. It wasn't as easy as it looked, but I had him on the defensive."

Kenny Loehr, the head coach of the U.S. boxing team, said, "The Cubans are the best in the world, but (Martinez) couldn't get going. He let the guy take over from the start ... Martinez was surprised and shocked. He's never knocked down before (in 130 fights)."

"Everything happened so

quick," said Martinez. "He hits pretty hard. The gloves here are pretty small. It's like getting hit with a barb wire. He came out right away. He didn't waste any time."

Meanwhile an ugly brawl between Canadian and Mexican baseball players soured the mood of the Pan-American Games Thursday, overshadowing glittering sprint double victories by local Cuban heroine Lillian Allen and Brazil's Robson Caetano da Silva.

Allen, whose striking looks and flowing black hair have made her a darling of the home crowd, crowned her 100 metres gold win Monday with an emphatic win in the 200 metres.

Lanky Brazilian Caetano da Silva followed suit in the men's 200 metres to claim the men's prestigious sprint double.

Making up for what has been a dearth of U.S. athletics victories so far in the games, Jim Driscoll used his experience to win the men's hammer with a throw of 72.78 metres ahead of compatriot Jud Logan and Cuba's Rene Diaz.

Ocky Clark and Terri Davis of the United States won the gold and silver medals in the men's 800 metres final, running a cool tactical race to shut out Tommy Asinga of Surinam.

The pole vault gold went to Pat Manson, also of the U.S., who cleared 5.50 metres, ahead of Canada's Doug Wood.

Cuba's Pedro Rodriguez continued his country's relentless medal march in the weightlifting, sweeping the golds in the snatch, clean-jerk and total in the 90 kilogram category. This brought Cuba's weightlifting gold medal haul so far to 20.

Diane Guthrie won Jamaica's first gold medal of the games in the women's long jump and shot putter Gert Weil heaved Chile onto the gold medal list with a throw of 19.47 metres.

Mexico's Graciela Mendoza took sweet revenge for her disqualification from victory at the last games in Indianapolis in 1987 to win the gold in the 10 kilometre walk. It was Mexico's third gold of the games.

Ivanisevic, Prpic may not play for Yugoslavia

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia (AP) — Goran Prpic and Goran Ivanisevic, ranked 16th and 19th on the ATP tour, say they may not play for Yugoslavia in the country's Davis Cup semifinal match against France in late September.

The two players are Croats, and their breakaway republic is engaged in armed conflict with Yugoslav federal forces as well as fighters from the neighbouring

Berger takes provisional pole in Hungarian GP

BUDAPEST (R) — Austrian Gerhard Berger snatched provisional pole position away from McLaren team mate Ayrton Senna in the last seconds of Friday's qualifying session for the Hungarian Grand Prix motor race Sunday.

Senna had held pole position from the moment he ended his first qualifying run, but was passed by Berger's late burst.

Berger's time of one minute 18.238 seconds, at an average speed of 183kph, was outside the record set last year by Thierry Boutsen in a Williams, and three-tenths of a second faster than Senna's 1:18.549.

The two Ferraris of Frenchman

Alain Prost and Jean Alesi formed the second row of the provisional grid, ahead of the two Williams of British Nigel Mansell — winner of the last three Grands Prix — and Riccardo Patrese.

Prost recorded 1:19.325 and Alesi was clocked at 1:19.532.

Patrese had to wait until the closing moments to make his two runs as mechanics worked to repair damage to his car caused in a morning spin. He set his best time on the last timed lap which he completed in 1:20.103.

Senna made first run after 40 minutes, immediately taking provisional pole position and, until Berger's late thrust, looked likely to hold off all his rivals.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH
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TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♦ J 10 9
♦ 10 9
♦ J 10 9 6 5 3
♦ 7 6

WEST
♦ Q 7 3
♦ Q 7 6 5 4
♦ Q 6 4
♦ J 10
♦ 5 4 2

EAST
♦ K 8 6 5 4 2
♦ A K 8 3
♦ A K 6
♦ A K 5

SOUTH
♦ A
♦ J 2
♦ A K 7 2
♦ A K Q 9 8 3

The bidding:

West North East South
Pass Pass 1 ♦ DbI
2 ♦ Pass 4 ♦ 5 ♦
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Three of ♦

If there is one quality that sets the expert apart from the rest of the bridge world, it is table presence—the ability to "feel" what is going on in the bidding room. Cards are distributed. As a result, the master will often make a play that stuns the average player. But all that is happening is that the ace is backing his judgment to the hit, at the risk of being embarrassed.

South's hand was too strong for any action other than a takeout dou-

ble at his first turn. Even though the bidding was at four spades by the time it got back, there was no keeping South out of the auction, which ended at five clubs.

Declarer won the first trick performed, and, when both defenders followed to the ace and king of clubs, declarer could claim the contract if diamonds broke 2-1. That was certainly the most likely distribution (78 percent, to be exact), South having suggested otherwise. Although East could not be holding much more than a maximum opening bid, that player had already bid into four spades despite the fact that both sides were vulnerable. It sounded as if East had a very distributional hand, and what could be more likely than a diamond void?

Even so, it seemed declarer would have to lose two heart tricks and a diamond, and down one would have been the outcome with most players we know at the helm. However, our South decided to back card-reading over mathematics.

Declarer did win the last trump, then, before either defender learned anything more about the hand, continued with a low diamond. West could see no reason to go up with the queen, and regrets that decision to this day.

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Becker, Edberg and Sampras advance, Lendl falls at ATP Championship

MASON, Ohio (AP) — Top seeded Boris Becker beat an onrushing thunderstorm and moved into the quarterfinals of the \$1.3 million ATP Championship by eliminating Maliv Washington 6-4, 6-4 Thursday.

Defending champion Stefan Edberg and U.S. Open champion Pete Sampras also advanced. But third-seed Ivan Lendl fell to No. 14 seeded Derrick Rostagno 7-6, 3-5, 6-3.

Edberg, the No. 2 seed, defeated Amos Mansdorf 6-1, 6-2. Sampras, seeded seventh, defeated Wayne Ferreira 6-1, 6-4.

"With the lightning, maybe it wasn't the best idea that the announcer said I was serving at 6-4, 5-4 and the storm was coming in about 10 minutes," Becker said.

"The pressure was already high and it makes it even higher to hurry up, get out of the way."

A late afternoon rain forced the suspension of some doubles matches, but the stadium court was dried out and singles play resumed.

French Open champion Jim Courier ousted Michael Chang

7-5, 6-2 before an evening deluge that washed out the match between fifth-seeded Andre Agassi and No. 12 seed Brad Gilbert.

"I served really well, that was the key," Courier said. "He allowed me to take advantage of his second serve. If he serves a little better, it's a different ballgame."

Lendl, who has been trying to come back from hand surgery, has two tour wins this year, both in February.

"I missed quite a few shots. Mainly, I didn't return his serve," Lendl said. "I either pushed it or missed it. It's hard to win that way."

Lendl said his season has been disappointing, and he's probably been playing below par because he hasn't been playing enough.

"I've always needed to play quite a bit. I missed four months and didn't play," he said.

"And look what happened to some of the guys that took some time off before," such as John McEnroe and Mats Wilander.

"Mine wasn't voluntary, but I didn't get to hit enough balls and

play enough, so I have to make it up."

"It's going to come sooner or later. I wish sooner."

Lendl had surgery for fibrosis on his right hand, which became infected following surgery in May.

"I was lucky to stay in the first set," Rostagno said. "I had some god serves and volleys at the right time, I guess, but I was struggling in the beginning."

But he said he's gained enough confidence recently not to fear a match against top-rated players.

"I'm sure that on a good day I can beat anyone, whereas I used to have doubts and would try to force myself to have a better day than I conceivably could bring out of myself," Rostagno said.

"That's probably the difference. That's why every time I go out on the court now, especially against a top player, I'm not going to give the match away by trying to play too well. I'm going to go ahead and make the play."

The tournament is being played at the Jack Nicklaus Sports Centre near Cincinnati.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 10, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

one is in the mood to join you in the hobbies and recreations that you and them like so enjoy each other's company.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Let those with whom you have any sort of worldly contact see that you are willing to go along with and do those things that can bring you big advancement.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think out that course that can really bring you into some new realms of thought and action that can make your whole existence more delightful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is the time to make sure that you do think deeply upon whatever is of concern to you and then let your prophetic insight guide the way.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 21) You are now able to find the precise and exact agreement which partners would like to engage in with you so be sure to discuss fully all such plans.

AQUARIUS: (January 22 to February 21) You need to show those who have been good or keep helpful to you that you are willing to serve their interest as well as you possibly can.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you have the many pleasures that have been denied you for sometime so make a point to early make the engagements with congenial friends.

Fernandez moves to Albuquerque quarterfinals

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Second-seeded Gigi Fernandez used a big serve in the clutch to hold off Halle Ciuffi 6-4, 7-5 and advanced to the quarterfinals of the Virginia Slims of Albuquerque tournament.

It was an erratic serve by Fernandez through much of the match that helped the unseeded Ciuffi stay close.

Fernandez served up her fourth of the match to go up 3-2 in the opening set, then broke Ciuffi to widen the lead.

Ciuffi broke back when Fernandez double-faulted twice in the seventh game then held to it 4-4.

Fernandez was aggressive at the net to win the next two games and the set.

Fernandez, ranked no. 33 in the world, jumped out to a 3-1 lead before Ciuffi broke her with winning passing shots. Fernandez had two aces in that game and seven in the match. Fernandez said she should have put the match away at 5-2, and was frustrated that she "couldn't consolidate" her winning games.

Other seeded players also advanced to the quarterfinals.

Top-seeded Julie Haldor beat overwhelmed fellow Frenchwoman Noelle Van Lottum, 6-1, 6-1; fourth-seeded Susan Sloane outlasted Tamaka Takagi of Japan, 7-5, 6-4; sixth-seeded Elina Reinach of South Africa defeated Alexandra Dechaume of France, 6-1, 2-6, 6-0, and Sandrine Testud of France outlasted Nicole Arendt 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

In the quarterfinals, Haldor meets Katrina Adams.

Capriati, Maleeva sisters advance in Canadian Open

TORONTO (Agencies) — Jennifer Capriati raced past Britain's Sara Gomer 6-2, 6-3 in a third-round match at the \$500,000 Canadian Open Women's Tennis Championship.

"I play fast," said the third-seeded Capriati after the 50-minute victory. "It's better than having to go three sets."

Gomer was annoyed at letting the American star dictate play so easily.

"The big thing I was disappointed with is that I allowed her to rush me and dominate the pace," said Gomer, a nine-year tour pro ranked number 123 in the world.

Capriati, 15, barely took time to bounce the ball before each serve as she ploughed along. Gomer showed a brief glimmer of hope when she broke for a 3-2 lead in the second set, but Capriati broke in the next game and then again to go up 5-3. Capriati wrapped up the match with a love service game.

Capriati meets ninth-seeded Natalia Zvereva, of the Soviet Union, in the quarterfinals.

Zvereva overcame a first-set challenge from American qualifier Jolene Watanabe before scoring a 7-6 (7-2) 6-0 win.

The Maleeva sisters, second-seeded Manuela Maleeva-Fragne and younger sister, fourth-seeded Katerina Maleeva, scored easy victories to march one match closer to a semifinal clash.

Maleeva-Fragne eliminated No. 16 seed Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia 6-1, 6-2. With matching ease, Katerina Maleeva, of Bulgaria, beat No. 12 seed Naoko Sawamatsu of Japan 6-1, 6-3.

Maleeva-Fragne will face

American Amy Frazier, the No. 8 seed, in Friday's quarterfinals. Frazier outlasted compatriot Debbie Graham 6-3, 1-6, 6-1 to advance.

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
In co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets		New York Close 1.6219 1.6219 1.6219			
Currency		1 MTH	3 MTHS		
Sterling Pound	1.7122	1.7185	1.7185		
Deutsche Mark	1.7104	1.7036	1.7036		
Swiss Franc	1.4973	1.4973	1.4973		
French Franc	5.6180	5.6176 **	5.6176 **		
Japanese Yen	125.94	135.45	135.45		
European Currency Unit	1.1993	1.2079 **	1.2079 **		
USD Per NYC					
European Central Bank rate: CMT					
Interest Rates		Date: 5.8.1991			
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.56	5.50	5.57	5.57	
Sterling Pound	12.81	13.75	13.56	13.53	
Deutsche Mark	8.81	8.16	8.57	8.43	
Swiss Franc	7.54	7.75	7.51	7.75	
French Franc	9.12	9.31	9.43	9.47	
Japanese Yen	130.40	135.56	137.15	136.95	
European Currency Unit	9.52	9.63	9.57	9.65	
Interest rates for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 Dinar equivalent.					
Previous Month		Date: 8.8.1991			
Metal	USD/Dz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Dz	JD/Gm
Gold	354.50	6.95	Silver	5.95	1.05
24 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		Date: 8.8.1991			
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	1.702	1.702			
Sterling Pound	1.7756	1.7756			
Deutsche Mark	1.620	1.620			
Swiss Franc	1.557	1.557			
French Franc	1.182	1.182			
Japanese Yen	1.547	1.547			
Dutch Guilder	1.566	1.566			
Swedish Krona	1.107	1.115			
Italian Lira	1.057	1.054			
Belgian Franc	1.1955	1.1945			
Per 100					
Other Currencies		Date: 8.8.1991			
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.7802	1.7802			
Lebanese Lira	.0750	.0770			
Saudi Riyal	.1823	.1830			
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-			
Qatari Riyal	.1856	.1862			
Egyptian Pound	.2060	.2200			
Omani Riyal	1.7400	1.7500			
UAE Dirham	.1856	.1852			
Greek Drachma	.5500	.5700			
Cypriot Pound	1.4300	1.4500			
Per 100					
CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market					
Index	6/8/1991 Close	7/8/1991 Close			
All-Share	109.07	109.10			
Banking Sector	103.90	103.52			
Insurance Sector	119.07	119.06			
Industry Sector	113.75	114.55			
Services Sector	127.66	128.97			
December 31, 1990 - 100					

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES		
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.		
One Sterling	1.7030/40	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1460/65	Canadian dollar
	1.7175/85	Deutschmarks
	1.9360/70	Dutch guilders
	1.5040/47	Swiss francs
	35.38/42	Belgian francs
	5.8450/8500	French francs
	1286/1287	Italian lire
	136.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.2430/80	Swedish crowns
	6.7150/7200	Norwegian crowns
	6.6530/80	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	357.80/38.30	U.S. dollars

Cinema	Tel: 677420
CONCORD	
AMERICAN RISCO	
Show: 3:30, 6:45, 10:30 p.m.	

Cinema	Tel: 675571
NIJOUN	
To Be Opened Soon Nabil Mashini Theatre	

Cinema	Tel: 675571
NIJOUN	
To Be Opened Soon Nabil Mashini Theatre	

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Israel's trade deficit yawns

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's trade deficit rose by 86 per cent in the first seven months of 1991 compared to the same period in 1990, Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics said Thursday.

Israeli finance ministry officials said the sharp rise "emphasises in particular the need to obtain U.S. loan guarantees of \$10 billion to finance immigration," Israel television said.

Israel is expected to request the loan guarantees from the United States in September to aid in funding a wave of Soviet Jewish immigration.

There has been concern that granting of the guarantees might

be linked to continuing Jewish settlement of occupied Arab lands opposed by the Bush administration.

The deficit stands at \$3.16 billion for the first seven months of this year compared to \$1.7 billion last year, the Bureau said.

The rise resulted from a 14 per cent increase of imports and 4.5 per cent fall in exports in the period January to July, 1991.

Imports rose by \$1.2 billion and exports shrank by \$300 million, it said.

Finance ministry officials said the import increase had been expected due to the wave of immigration that has brought

some 300,000 new immigrants to Israel in less than two years, the television said.

A construction boom to house the immigrants accounted for a large portion of the increase.

The officials attributed the fall in exports to a drop in world prices and industrial orders, including those for Israel's military industry.

Despite agreeing conditionally to U.S. proposals for a Middle East peace conference, Israel has continued to push settlement that has placed some 100,000 Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Prudential confirms credit talks with Algeria

DUBAI (R) — The emirate of Abu Dhabi may face losses of around \$12 billion due to the enforced closure of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), according to latest estimates by Gulf bankers and

officials.

But such an initial loss would equal almost two years' of Abu Dhabi's oil revenue, or almost one whole year of the United Arab Emirates' (UAE's) federal budget — funded mainly by UAE oil producing emirates Abu Dhabi and Dubai.

Local bankers fear an economic squeeze while the emirate covers high initial payouts to compensate depositors and to write off bad debts.

Abu Dhabi officials decline all comment on BCCI while the future of the troubled bank is still at issue.

The emirate's ruling Al Nahayan family and main financial institutions own 77.4 per cent of Luxembourg-based BCCI holdings, which controls the group's banking interests in BCCI and its Cayman Islands

bank.

Prudential Securities Inc. said in a statement Thursday that it is holding discussions with Algerian government agencies about ways it can help the country achieve its economic goals.

The bank said in a statement that a protocol agreement for the credit had been signed in the presence of Prudential's managing director, Paul Scura, and the central bank governor.

Prudential Securities Inc. said the credit would be useable over three years and repayable over eight with an unspecified grace period. "It will enable Algeria to organise a healthy reshaping of a major part of its non-public external debt," it added.

Algeria says it has a foreign debt of about \$24 billion, owed mostly by the government and state corporations. The World Bank puts the debt at \$26 billion.

Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali said last month the economy would "suffocate" if it did not get an injection of \$6 or \$7 billion in the next five months. He has proposed raising the money by selling Algerian oil in advance to foreign oil companies.

In late July Algeria had enough foreign exchange reserves for 10 days of imports and the government could no longer raise new loans to service its foreign debts, he said.

Algeria expects to earn \$12 billion from oil and gas exports this year but repaying debt will cost \$8 billion. The debt service ratio has risen to 69 per cent from 18 per cent in 1988.

The head of an Algerian bank which signed the protocol with Prudential Securities Inc. (USA) envisaging \$5 billion credit said Thursday the accord had still to be finalised.

Classes will be five days per week from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A reduced tuition and capital assessment rate will apply. Bus transportation is available for an additional fee.

Please contact ACS (813944-6) for additional information.

ANNOUNCEMENT

JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES CO., LTD.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co., Ltd

announces that the closing date of

tender No. 11F / 91

Yugoslav ceasefire holds

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav authorities tried Friday to end a face-off between armed Croats and Serbs after a ceasefire gave breakaway Croatia its first quiet night in weeks.

Serb guerrillas and Croatian security forces stared stonily at each other from battle positions and each side accused the other of violating the truce, declared Wednesday.

But no shooting incidents were reported.

With tension still high after weeks of bloodletting in which scores have died, diplomats said it was too early yet to pronounce the ceasefire successful.

"Things look okay for the moment. But the depth of hatred out there is such that things could change for the worst in an instant," said one diplomat in Belgrade.

The warring sides planned to exchange prisoners Friday by six p.m. (1600 GMT) in line with plans set up by a Yugoslav presidency commission implementing the ceasefire.

More than 300 people have died in Yugoslavia since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence on June 25. Croatia's secession is opposed by Serbs who comprise 600,000 of Croatia's 4.5 million people.

Yugoslav ceasefire observers, including representatives from the Croatian side and the republic's Serb community, arranged to start work from crisis centres set up in flashpoint areas.

A first team of observers, some to operate from helicopters, headed for the town of Dalj, in eastern Croatia.

The town was the scene of an attack by Serbs on Croatian militia on Aug. 2 in which at least 80 people were killed.

The ceasefire, declared by the state presidency, calls for combatants to pull back out of range of each other but federal officials say this has been only partially successful.

Diplomats say persuading the two sides to disengage and, later, to lay down their arms will prove a tortuous task.

Croatia, whose poorly-armed forces have been bloodied by the better-trained Serbs now occupying a large part of the republic, is in a weak position and the Zagreb leadership is unhappy over parts of the ceasefire deal.

The Croats say federal army units are backing the Serbian guerrillas. They have unsuccessfully called for the units to be withdrawn to barracks.

Diplomats said the Croatian leadership was sure to be unhappy

that the army had been assigned to police the ceasefire under the presidency's peace plan.

Croatia, fearful that it now stands to lose territory to the Serbs, wants international involvement in the crisis. But its rival Serbia is wary of this.

"Croatia will just have to swallow hard on the parts of the deal that does not like. If it wants the world community to get involved, it cannot be seen as pulling the rug out from under a ceasefire," said one diplomat.

The 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe indicated Thursday it was ready to help monitor a ceasefire but expected the Yugoslavs themselves to show they were doing all in their power to end the violence.

A peace mission by three European Community foreign ministers failed last weekend after Serbia's leaders did not show up for a final session of talks.

Borislav Jovic, Serbia's representative on the Yugoslav presidency, said Thursday that Serbia would only oppose EC observers from Germany and Italy.

"Observer missions cannot include countries which occupied Yugoslavia during World War II," he said.

Germany has been in the forefront of those EC countries which say European nations might have to recognise Croatia and Slovenia if Serbian guerrillas continue military operations.

Meanwhile, Albania's foreign minister said Thursday he suspected neighbouring Serbia was instigating the new exodus of Albanians fleeing to the West, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported from Tirana.

"When anything goes wrong in Yugoslavia, it seems that somebody busies himself to spark off discontent here," Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani told Italian reporters.

Asked if he was referring to Belgrade, he replied: "No. I did not say Belgrade. I'm speaking about the Serbs."

Prime Minister Ili Buffi was more cautious. Asked if he shared his foreign minister's views, he said: "The situation is complex. I can't exclude the fact that there is something like this, but I can't really answer."

The main bone of contention between Albanians and Serbs is the Yugoslav border province of Kosovo. Albanian Muslims are now in a majority there, but Kosovo played a major role in the history of the Christian Serbs.

S. Africa, Argentina restore ties

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — South Africa and Argentina Thursday resumed full diplomatic relations that were downgraded five years ago, the Foreign Affairs Ministry announced.

Argentina downgraded relations to the consular level in May 1986 at a time when many countries were breaking ties with South Africa to protest apartheid.

South Africa's parliament repealed apartheid legislation this year.

A ministry statement said the decision to resume diplomatic ties was made during a telephone conversation between South African Foreign Minister Piki Botha and his Argentine counterpart, Guido Di Tella.

The statement said ambassadors would be appointed soon.

Several East European and African countries have restored diplomatic relations with South Africa this year because of government reforms aimed at ending apartheid.

South African Foreign Minister Piki Botha conferred Thursday with a Soviet envoy and predicted afterwards that relations would improve steadily.

Mr. Botha had an hour of talks with Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Valeri Nikolayenko, the highest-ranking Soviet official to visit Pretoria.

"I foresee steady, closer cooperation between us," Mr. Botha told reporters, according to the South African Press Association.

He said there was no rush to restore full diplomatic ties.

Moscow and Pretoria resumed low-level diplomatic ties in July after more than 30 years of hostility during which fiercely anti-Communist South African governments cited Soviet expansionism as the main reason for repressive security laws.

Political reforms in both countries led last November to the first official Soviet trade visit since Pretoria closed the Soviet embassy in 1956.

Meanwhile South African newspapers levelled new "dirty tricks" charges against the government Friday, reporting secret payments to the mainly-Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party as recently as February.

Sri Lankan parliament floats peace signal

COLOMBO (AP) — Parliament unanimously approved a resolution Friday sponsored by a hard-line opposition party creating a committee to recommend a political settlement with Tamil rebels.

The resolution, adopted by a voice vote in the 225-member house, said the committee should "arrive at a political solution to the national question involving the devolution of power to the northern and eastern provinces."

Tamils, led by the Liberation Tigers for Tamil Eelam (LTTE), have been fighting since 1983 for independence in the north and east, where the Tamil population is concentrated.

The resolution was proposed by a member of the opposition Freedom Party which until now has led the criticism of the government's handling of the Tamil war, usually urging tougher military action against the rebels.

The committee, whose 12 members will be appointed later, should discuss ways to prevent the disintegration of the nation, the resolution said. It also should seek ways to stop the killing of innocent civilians and members of the armed forces, it said.

Meanwhile, guerrillas hacked to death seven Muslim farmers and burned their corpses in eastern Sri Lanka, military officials said. They said, revising an earlier report of eight dead.

retaliation for the rebel defeat in the battle for Elephant Pass, a strategic military camp.

The villagers were killed Thursday at Sammanturai, 218 kilometres east of the capital of Colombo, said the officials, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity.

The Muslim community, which makes up about 7 per cent of the population, is concentrated in the troubled eastern province and has been caught up in the fighting between government troops and the rebels.

Officials of the Joint Operations Command said the army had been expecting a civilian massacre in response to the rebels' failure to overrun the Elephant Pass army camp, 295 kilometres north of Colombo.

Last Saturday, relief troops broke a 25-day rebel siege of the camp which controls the east, where the two people on the stunt plane were killed. Beverly Hills police said it was a coincidence Carr was one of several policemen sent to intervene in a loud argument between the younger Douglas and his lawyer in a nearby office. Eric Douglas is the son of Kirk Douglas by his second marriage, to Anne Buydens. His more famous half brother, Michael Douglas, is the son of Kirk Douglas by his first marriage, to British actress Diana Dill.

COLUMN

Kirk Douglas's son accused of kicking policeman

LOS ANGELES (R) — Eric Douglas, actor son of Kirk Douglas, was accused of kicking a policeman who was sent to break up an argument between the younger Douglas and his lawyer.

Prosecutors said Douglas, 33, was charged with battery against Beverly Hills policeman Michael Carr, 37, who received minor leg injuries. Douglas could be sentenced to up to a year in jail.

He was released on bail of \$5,000. Carr was the pilot of a helicopter on which Kirk Douglas, 72, was a passenger when it was in collision with a stunt plane near Santa Paula, California, last February. Douglas suffered broken ribs, cuts and bruises and Carr and the other passenger on board the helicopter were also injured. The two people on the stunt plane were killed. Beverly Hills police said it was a coincidence Carr was one of several policemen sent to intervene in a loud argument between the younger Douglas and his lawyer in a nearby office. Eric Douglas is the son of Kirk Douglas by his second marriage, to Anne Buydens. His more famous half brother, Michael Douglas, is the son of Kirk Douglas by his first marriage, to British actress Diana Dill.

Life on Mars — don't hold your breath

LONDON (R) — Life on Mars, long a staple of science fiction, may become a reality. But don't hold your breath — it could take up to 100,000 years, scientists said Thursday. Writing in the science journal *Nature*, Christopher McKay, of the NASA Ames Research Centre in California, and fellow researchers said it may be possible for scientists to redesign the environment of the red planet to support plants and people. "Mars is believed to be lifeless, but it may be possible to transform it into a planet suitable for habitation by plants and conceivably humans," they said.

Two military transport planes took off for Albania Friday morning with 60 refugees and an equal number of police.

The Italian military hoped one flight would leave every half hour for the short crossing across the Adriatic Sea to Tirana.

At the stadium, troops backed army trucks up against the doors to prevent them being forced open while police helicopters buzzed overhead, trying to track escaping refugees.

Military reformers blame Lithuania deaths on KGB

MOSCOW (AP) — A group of military reformers have blamed the KGB for the killings of seven Lithuanian law enforcement officers at a customs post nine days ago.

Vitaly Yurazhtsev, chairman of Shield, an independent group of servicemen committed to military reform, told reporters that the group had sent its own experts to Lithuania to investigate the July 31 killings.

"The crime was planned beforehand and thoroughly prepared. The operation was headed by the Soviet KGB with the help of the Omon in Vilnius and Riga," Mr. Yurazhtsev said.

The Omon, also known as the "black berets," are special paramilitary units under the control of the Soviet Interior Ministry and have participated in previous attacks on government buildings throughout the Baltics.

The Shield experts concluded that "units of the Baltic military district did not take part in the action. But the commanders of the district were warned about the planned action," Mr. Yurazhtsev said. He was reading a statement by the group.

However, Mr. Yurazhtsev declined to be specific about the evidence that led Shield to pin-point the KGB, or to name the members of the group of military experts sent to Lithuania.

He said the type of weapons used by the attackers pointed to the KGB, but added that other evidence was to be kept confidential while Shield's investigation continued. He did not say when the information would be released or to whom it would be submitted.

Shield is a group of lawmakers

and military officers that was formed in 1989 to provide social protection for servicemen and pursue reforms within the Soviet military. Among other things, they favour an all-volunteer force.

The seven Lithuanian law enforcement officers were shot and killed by unknown attackers at the Medininkai customs post about 40 kilometres from Vilnius on the border with Byelorussia.

An eighth victim, the only potential witness, is in serious condition in a Lithuanian hospital. The Soviet News Agency (TASS) said Thursday that it was too early for the witness to give evidence.

The KGB, the Soviet Defence Ministry and the Soviet Interior Ministry all have denied responsibility for the killings, which occurred during a Moscow summit between U.S. President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Accusations that the KGB was involved "are totally unfounded, do not correspond to reality and are provocative," the KGB Public Relations Centre said in a second statement Thursday, TASS reported.

There have been more than 20 assaults on the customs posts set up by the breakaway republic since last year. The Medininkai attack was the most serious since 14 people died when Soviet troops opened fire on unarmed civilians surrounding the Vilnius Television Tower on Jan. 23.

Mr. Yurazhtsev said Shield was calling for formation of an independent international commission to investigate the Medininkai incident.

TV newman Harry Reasoner dead at 68

NEW YORK (Agencies) — T.V. newsmen Harry Reasoner, whose elegant prose, dry wit and wry, self-effacing style helped make CBS's "60 Minutes" newsmagazine one of U.S. television's most popular programmes, died Tuesday of cardiopulmonary arrest. He was 68.

The white-haired, craggy-faced journalist was a veteran CBS News reporter and former "ABC Evening News" broadcaster who won numerous journalism awards.

Mr. Reasoner joined CBS in New York in 1956, working up through the ranks as a radio and T.V. newscaster and commentator. He became known for his light touch with the news and a warm, personal style.

He left CBS in 1970 to co-anchor "The ABC Evening News" with Howard K. Smith. In 1975, he and Barbara Walters became network T.V.'s first male-female evening anchor team, but their collaboration soured and he rejoined CBS in 1978.

He won several Emmy awards, a George Foster Peabody Award for "outstanding contributions to television news" in 1967 and was honoured by the Overseas Press Club of America for best television documentary on foreign affairs for a report on Africa.

"Harry Reasoner was one of the gentle giants of broadcast journalism," said Howard Stringer, president of the CBS Broadcast Group.

The author of three books, Reasoner is survived by his wife, Lois, and seven children from a previous marriage.

Reformer becomes new Hanoi premier

BANGKOK (AP) — Vo Van Kiet, a leading advocate of capitalist-style reform, was elected prime minister of Vietnam Friday.

The 69-year-old Mr. Kiet, who fought the French and Americans as a Communist guerrilla, succeeds the more conservative Du Moi in the key government position.

The official Voice of Vietnam, monitored in Bangkok, said Mr. Kiet was elected during the afternoon session of the National Assembly in Hanoi. His predecessor had submitted his resignation during the morning session.

The election took place at Ba Dinh conference hall in the Vietnamese capital, where the assembly has been meeting for the past two weeks. It is scheduled to elect members of the new cabinet during its closing session Saturday.

Mr. Kiet has been regarded as one of the most liberal figures in the senior power hierarchy, and had pushed for reforming the country's centrally planned, state-run economy.

A number of capitalist-style changes have been injected into the economy in recent years, although the Communist Party has refused to relinquish its monopoly on power.

With an estimated annual per capita of \$200, Vietnam ranks as one of the world's poorest nations. It is plagued by a soaring

population, natural disasters which destroy vital food crops, an antiquated infrastructure and a trade embargo imposed by the United States.

Mr. Kiet, from southern Vietnam, is the country's third most powerful figure based on his ranking in the Communist Party's politburo.

Mr. Du Moi tops the politburo and was named to head Vietnam's Communist Party during a congress last June when he held the prime ministership. Traditionally, the party leadership and prime minister's portfolio do not go to the same person.

Defence Minister Le Duc Anh is ranked no. 2 in the politburo.

Typhoon, rainstorm hit Shanghai area, 12 dead

PEKING (AP) — A tornado whipped through towns and farmland on Shanghai's outskirts, killing at least 12 people and felling hundreds of homes, according to official reports Friday.

More than 160 people were injured when the tornado struck Wednesday evening, moving in a westward line just south of Shanghai, China's largest city with 13 million residents, and Suzhou, a major tourist city west of Shanghai.

The tornado was accompanied by torrential rains that lasted about 12 hours. Shanghai newspapers said they reported widespread flooding, with some areas receiving 210mm of rain in a few hours.

The storm came as large parts of China battled flooding caused by the worst storms in decades. Heavy rains continued in north-eastern China, the latest area to be hit, but information on damage remained sketchy.

Authorities refused to release final casualty figures from Shanghai, but a total of 12 weather-related deaths were reported in the Thursday editions of Shanghai's Liberation Daily newspaper, Wen Hui News and Xinhua Evening News.

The Xinhua Evening News said five people were killed when their homes collapsed, one man died of a heart attack and a young couple was electrocuted the morning after the storm when they touched an electric fan while trying to clear flood water out of their

home. It also reported a 28-year-old man electrocuted by a downed power line on a street.

Wen Hui News said two elderly bicyclists also were electrocuted by a downed powerline. The Liberation Daily said a 3-year-old child was killed when a building collapsed. More than 100 people were injured, it said.

The Liberation Daily also reported 61 people injured in five villages on Suzhou's outskirts, where it said several hundred homes collapsed.

A man who answered the telephone at the National Flood Control Headquarters in Peking said his office was instructed not to release the casualty figures.

Heavy rains caused flooding in the lower Yangtze River valley in eastern China in June and July, leaving millions homeless and wiping